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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 15, 1992

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HW*

RE: Site Inspection, Energy Fuels Nuclear, MiVida/Expectation Mine,  
M/037/028, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 12, 1992

Time of Inspection: 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Conditions: Warm, sunny

Participants: Wayne Wright, Jim Butt, Energy Fuels Nuclear; Wayne Sutherland,  
Sal Venticinque, BLM; Holland Shepherd, DOGM

The purpose of this inspection was to evaluate reclamation of the MiVida/Expectation sites. The operator has been involved in reclaiming the sites since the middle of April. Reclamation is nearing completion and will be done by the end of this week. The Expectation mine site has been completed and the operator is involved in finishing up work at the MiVida mine site.

Our first visit was to the Expectation. Access to the site required walking from the Ivy mine to the Expectation. The road is not accessible at this time by four-wheel drive vehicle. The Expectation is approximately 1/2 mile up canyon from the Ivy mine (within easy walking distance). The site has been completely reclaimed. The portal has been closed and recontoured and is no longer recognizable as a portal. All trash and debris has been removed from the stream channel. The operator has done an excellent job in cleaning up, regrading and recontouring the site and reestablishing the natural stream drainage on the site. The Expectation portion of the MiVida is eligible for partial release at this time.

We next visited the MiVida/McCormick portion of the site. The upper MiVida has been reclaimed and completed. The operator has reestablished the natural stream drainage through the upper MiVida and the McCormick portions of the site.

The operator is currently working on positioning the original ore cars in front of the McCormick Tunnel and is constructing a safety fence around the McCormick bin. The McCormick portal has been plugged up with gob, about 30 feet of it from the entrance back. The entrance to the McCormick is intact. The operator is laying out and reestablishing the original railing coming out of the portal upon which the ore cars will be positioned. Mr. Jim Butt, who is contracting for Energy Fuels voluntarily offered to fill up the ore bin with material. He indicated that he will try to dump in fill material such that it won't fill up the entire bin but will allow someone to crawl out if they were to fall into it.

In talking to Mr. Wayne Wright and Jim Butt, we determined the actual location for the original MiVida mine shaft which was uncovered during the regrading reclamation work done earlier this month. Mr. Butt offered to mark the spot with a fence post so we can later establish a plaque at this specific site. The shaft was about 6 x 6 feet and 80 feet deep. It was unsealed and open, but filled up during the reclamation work that was done at the site.

All of the upper MiVida has been reclaimed. None of the original buildings, foundations, and trash exist at the site at this time. The Minerals West decline which the operator was responsible for has been sealed and backfilled. The Atlas ventilation shaft has been backfilled and reclaimed, and the hoist house removed. The old Charlie Steen, Utex Exploration Company, office complex has been demolished and removed. Several of the older pre-law shafts and portals that had been located behind the MiVida buildings to the east have been sealed up and backfilled by the operator.

The magazine facility as well as a portal that was apparently established by Mr. Bob Shumway many years ago, pre-law, still remain on site above what used to be the MiVida complex. The original MiVida portal has been sealed up and recontoured and the stream channel has been reestablished at that point to prevent it from going into the mine workings. The operator has reconstructed the access road that goes down to the McCormick off of the main county road such that it is mostly out of the natural stream channel. This will remain access for tourists in years to come.

Energy Fuels has saved the Division a considerable amount of work by proceeding to put a fence up around the ore bin, by sealing off the bottom of the ore bin with fill material, by reestablishing the ore cars and railing in front of the McCormick tunnel, and also backfilling the ore bin. These are things the Division had committed to doing in the reclamation plan and Energy Fuels was not committed to doing. However, Energy went ahead and did them anyway.



Page 3  
Site Inspection  
M/037/028  
May 15, 1992

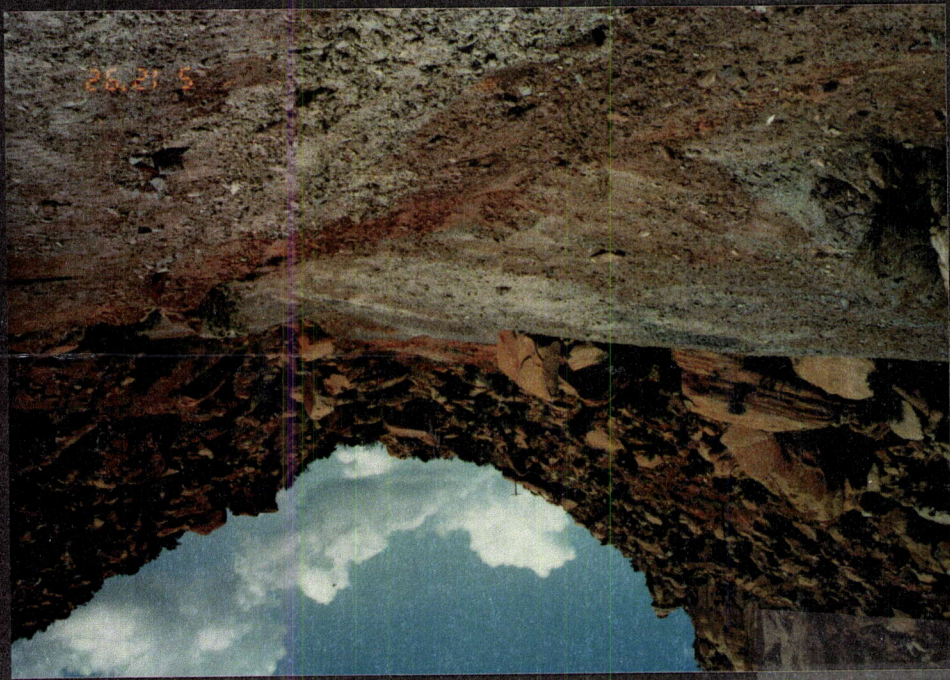
The operator has done an exceptional job in reclaiming the MiVida by removing all the safety hazards and environmental problems, for which the operator is responsible. The site will probably take some time to reestablish vegetation because of the poor quality soil material that is found on site. The operator has made an attempt to use the darker brown sandstone material to cover up the poor quality gray shaley mine waste that came out of the workings. This will help considerably to reestablish vegetation on the site.

The reestablished stream channel has not been riprapped or armored. The Division did not ask that this be done by Energy Fuels, as the cost would have been fairly prohibitive in taking that approach and financial resources were limited. Coarse rocks and boulders will eventually become reestablished at the bottom of the stream channel via exposure by erosion. Some fines will be lost while this process is going on. However, the original stream channel has been reestablished and very little waste material remains in the original stream channel. Any effects of downstream sediment loading will be extremely negligible since the drainage is ephemeral for miles downstream.

Photos have been made available from this inspection.

jb  
cc: Roger Smith, Energy Fuels Nuclear  
Lowell Braxton, DOGM



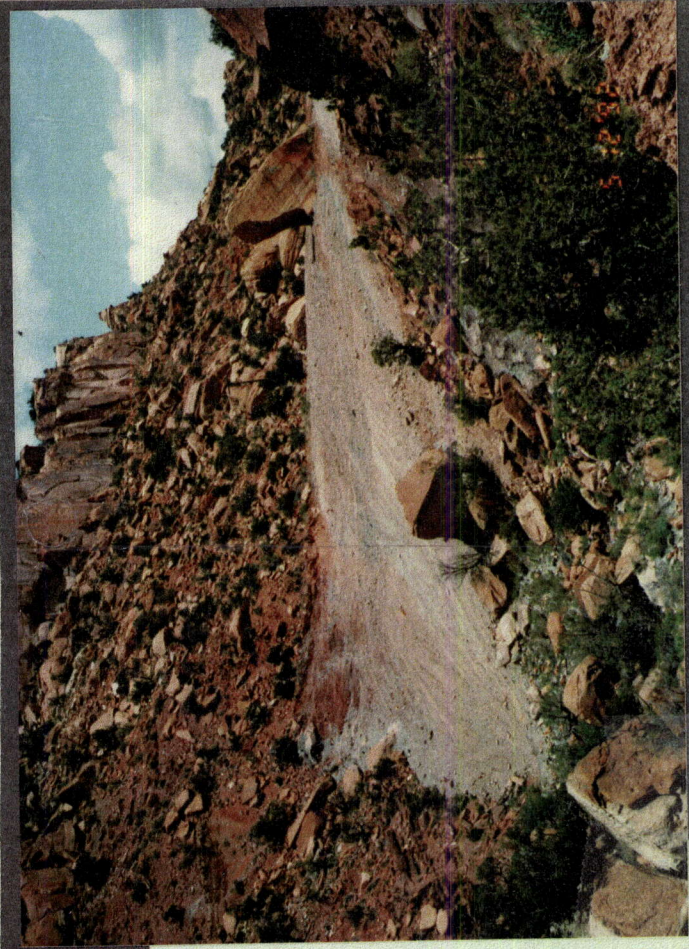


M/037/028  
UPPER PORTION OF  
MI VIDA SITE

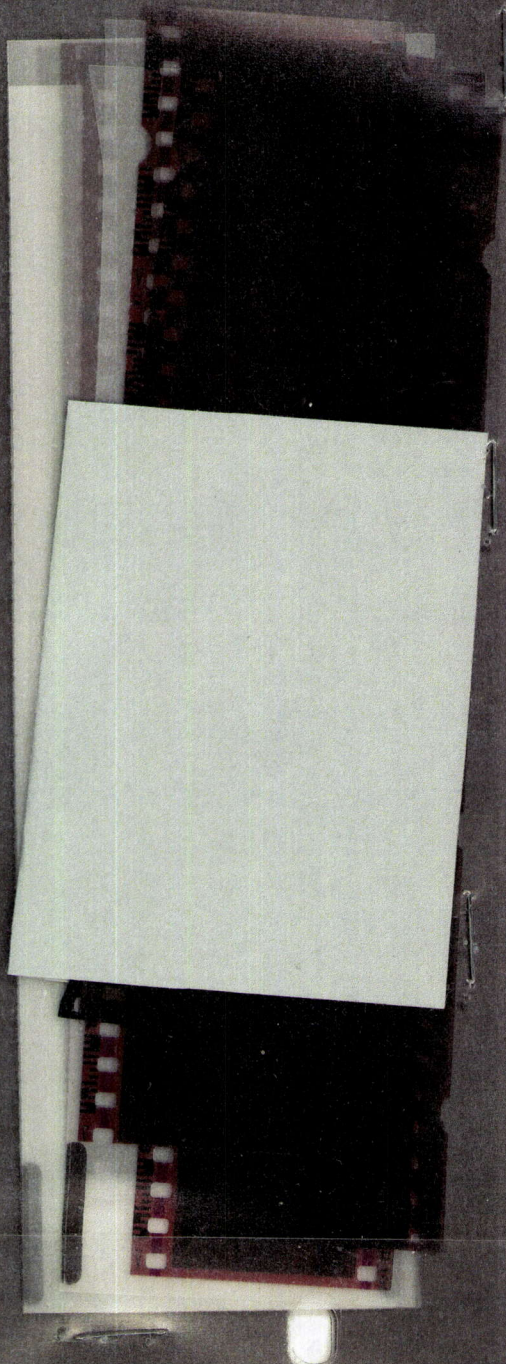




Pililla  
 Expedition Tunnel  
 820/730/21  
 Reclaimed  
 5/12/02



820/730/21



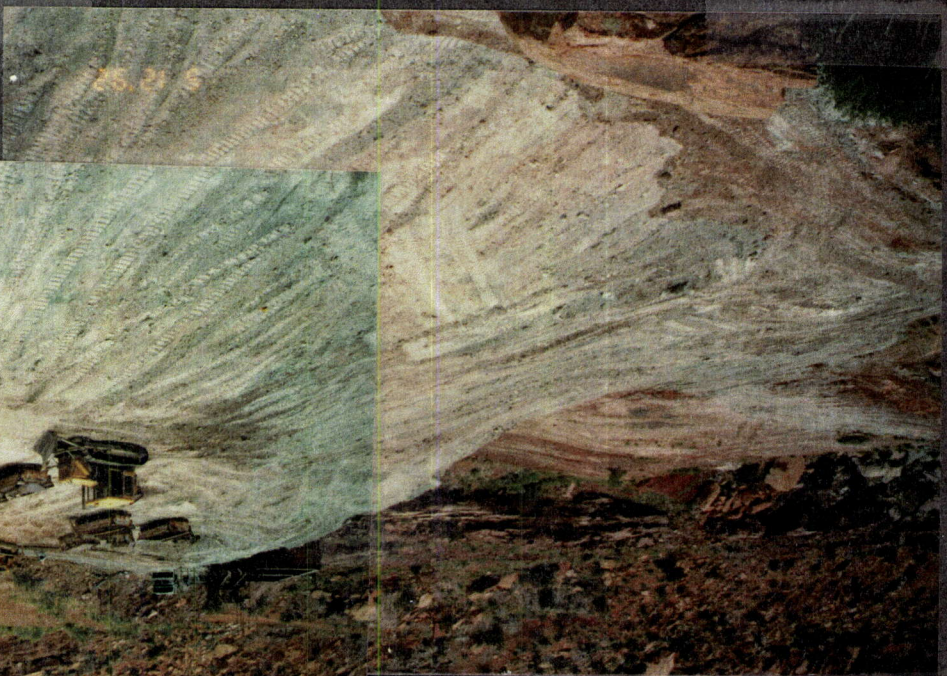
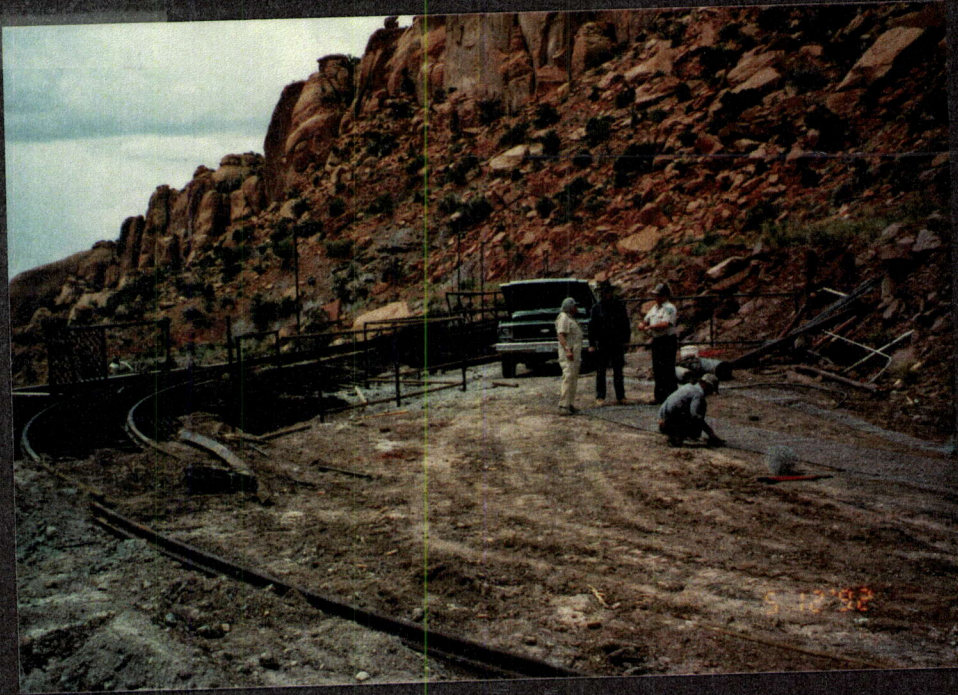




M/037/028  
McCORMICK TUNNEL  
AREA







M/037/028  
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